

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

26th January 2025



Caption

What's Been Happening: Critique by Sally

Sally Sallet a member of Castleford Camera Club, a YPU judge and with a host of photography awards behind her name and also a friend of Dearne Valley Camera Club joined us this week via the wonders of Zoom as she looked at our photographs and offered her constructive criticism as to whether or not she thought a photograph would make it past the YPU judges. Her opinions, she stresses are hers and not a guarantee one way or another.

Here are something we learned. (In no particular order)

- Is your focus sharp - where it needs to be sharp
- Are your horizontals and vertical straight
- Ditch bright things near the edges of your images
- Does your photo capture the imagination of the judges within a 3 second time span
- Does it have impact or its it 'just like all the others'
- Borders need to be thin
- Make sure your whites are not blown out and your shadows not totally devoid of any light
- Look for odd things in your image which perhaps you haven't seen
- Don't be afraid to crop if it improves the picture.
- Are all parts of your image adding to the story you are telling
- As far as competitions go Infra red is divisive some judges seem to reject it regardless of quality, so it can be a dangerous option for you.
- Eyes, make sure they are in focus
- Watch out for advertising hoardings that distract
- Try to ensure the focus of the photograph is on your subject
- Composition, composition, composition.

Sally was kind enough to offer advice and took time to take one or two (or several) images into her editing software and showed how some simple changes made all the difference.

Coming Soon

Some major news coming your way on Wednesday this week.



Cath and Marsha looking at the news,

Zoom.

Don't forget that when we are using Zoom to turn off your microphones - this will hopefully help eliminate distracting noises. In future Zoom meetings we will be testing options for the meeting organiser muting all microphones (save the key speaker) and members will need to ask to get their microphone turned on when they wish to speak. The host can also, at their discretion, turn off the images from your camera.

Show and Tell of your triptychs

Make sure you've got them submitted before Wednesday - that will give me time to get the slide show together on Wednesday.

Look ups and Links.

What to get ready for the next practical on 5th February ...

[Layflat guide](#)

The link for your triptychs can be found at

dvcc.co.uk/imageuploads

This week's recommended YouTuber is fashion and portrait photographer.

[Linsdey Adler](#)

A photography album.

This weeks photography album is drawn from some of the images that members sought critique and advice on how to teak and make them even better. Some images here have been re-



A days shooting at Wortley Top forge by Mel Dassow



A more relaxed approach from Keith who opted for an afternoon with Austen

YPU Entries

The closing date for YPU entries is Friday 7th February. You'll also need to submit your entry form (see web site) and £1.50 for each image or print you submit. If you submit more than 2 images (or prints) the club will contribute £1.50. Submit 2 pay for 2, submit 3 pay for 2, submit 10 pay for 9 ...



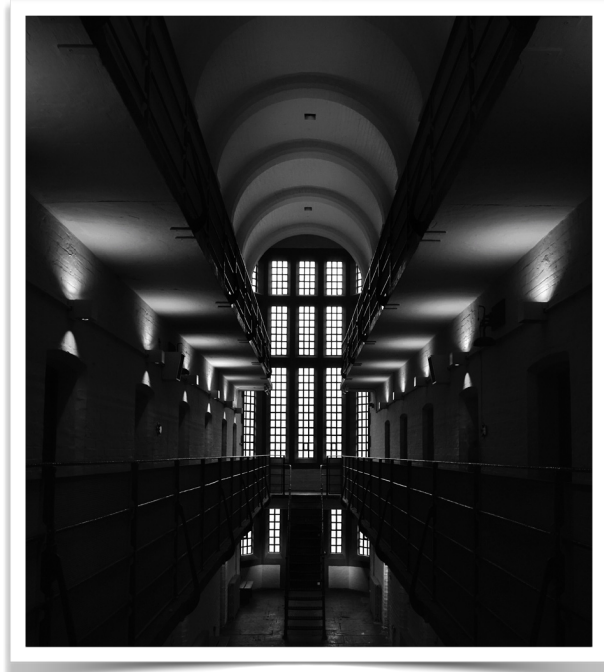
Cat on a Window sill by Cath



But Monika goes high for the hotel in the mist



A more modern approach form Marsha.



Whist its Art Deco for Neil



Brian is all afloat



But Ali is wrecked on the humber.

Talking Techniques and Technical Tutorials: Layflat

Courtesy of Nikon website.

A flat lay is simply an image shot directly from above – a bird's eye view of an array of carefully arranged objects – use it to tell a story. Choose a theme, using a couple of 'star' items surrounded by a 'supporting cast' of additional elements. Go for harmonious, complementary colours, and keep things simple – less is often more. The most popular format for flat lays is square, and within that square you want to be aiming for a clean, easy-to-read composition.

Whether you go for a square, portrait or landscape format, use the rule of thirds to guide you – imagine a noughts and crosses grid overlaying the image, and position the most important elements roughly where the gridlines intersect.

Choose your flat-lay's backdrop with care. Plain white is very popular and often extremely effective, but don't be afraid to experiment with different colours and textures, such as wood, corkboard, fabric, wallpaper – whatever matches the theme of your flat lay

Calendar of events

29th January	Wednesday	Great Houghton Church	Practical	2:00 pm onwards, capturing the essence and beauty of St Michaels and All Angels Church
29th January	Wednesday	Wath Rugby	Show and Tell	3 triptych showing a day in your life (not necessarily any one day)
1st February	Saturday	Wath Rugby Match Day	Practical	2:15 pm kick off, Wath v Bridlington as Wath look to get back to winning ways
5th February	Wednesday	Wath Rugby	Practical	Bring your camera, bring your tripod, bring some "still life" objects and bring some letters. Letters? The scrabble or similar letters as you add words to your still life

Items for sale, or in need of a good home.

Item	Price	Contact
Tripod head Manfrotto 3 way head Ref: 804 RC2 Mk1 Example here	£25	Nigel
Tripod bag - camlink	FOC	Nigel
Asus Sonic master Model X515J. BQ2557W Ram = 8GB, Hard drive. = 500 GB (approx) Manufactured Dec 2021.	£200	Chrissy
Canon 2000D digital camera kit, including lens, spare battery, memory card, polarising filter	£290	Chrissy